Elisabeth: Rondo of Love and Death

Shinjin Kouen

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This script was compiled based on the 2009 Moon Troupe and 2014 Flower Troupe performances.
It should work with most of the other shinjin kouens without difficulty.

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Elisabeth: Rondo of Love and Death

Can Death fall in love with a woman and can she love death in return?

Witness the inception of the “Rondo of Love and Death.”

About 100 years after the assassination of Empress Elisabeth of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the trial of assassin Luigi Lucheni was still ongoing in the purgatorial court.

“The empress herself desired death upon her.”

Lucheni answers thusly when asked the reason for his murder of Elisabeth.
One by one, he summons the souls of the dead to testify and recount the bizarre fate of the late Empress.

What did Elisabeth want and love?

As a knowing witness to that question, Der Tod, the lord of the underworld, appears from the deepest darkness to tell his story:

About Elisabeth’s greatest love.

The story begins in the Kingdom of Bavaria in 1853.
Fifteen-year-old Elisabeth spent her youthful days with great freedom, in keeping with her admiration for her father’s way of unrestrained living, free from structure and custom.
One day, Elisabeth was severely injured when she fell during a daring tightrope walk and lapsed into unconsciousness.
Death himself greeted Elisabeth, who was wandering between life and death, at the entrance to the underworld. When he was about to give her the kiss of death...
Der Tod was mesmerized by Elisabeth’s spirited eyes that looked straight at him.
Der Tod was shaken by the first love that he had ever felt.
He was compelled to continue chasing her forever, until the day she wished for death.
Having made his decision, Der Tod returned Elisabeth to the world of the living.

The Austrian Empire was ruled at that time by the young Emperor Franz Joseph I.
However, Franz’s mother, Princess Sophie, was the true power behind the throne. To ensure the security and longevity of the Hapsburgs, Sophie arranged a marriage meeting between Franz Joseph I and Helene, daughter of her sister, Ludovika, and invited them to a summer retreat in Bad Ischl.
While Sophie’s intended future wife for her son was Helene, first cousin of Franz and older sister of Elisabeth, a quirk of fate awaited at their first meeting—

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Franz fell in love with Elisabeth, who was accompanying her sister and mother. Captivated by the charming Elisabeth, Franz proposed that he and Elizabeth spend the rest of their lives together. Though startled by the sudden proposal, Elisabeth willingly accepted the emperor's words of devotion.

On April 24, 1854, the two were wed at St. Augustine's Church in Vienna.
With Franz and Elisabeth believing in their eternal love, Der Tod watched over them with firm conviction:

"I shall be the one to win her over in the end."

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– Act 1 –

Scene 1: Prologue・The night world of the dead and the dreamers

JUDGE (VOICE): The accused: Luigi Lucheni.
Italian.
A terrorist.
Arrested for the murder of Empress Elisabeth.
Committed suicide in prison.

LUCHENI: I've been dead for a long time!
Just send me to heaven or hell already!

JUDGE (VOICE): No!
You will not be released from purgatory until you state your reason for killing the empress!

LUCHENI: The same old questions every night.
In the time I've been here, the Habsburgs have long since died out!

JUDGE (VOICE): State your reason.

LUCHENI: The empress herself wished for it.

JUDGE (VOICE): Nonsense.
That's impossible.

LUCHENI: I have witnesses.

JUDGE (VOICE): Who?

LUCHENI: Elisabeth's contemporaries during the twilight of the Habsburg empire.
Come, everyone, awaken from your sleep.
Wake up and speak of her.
Yes, Elisabeth!

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Scene 2: Possenhofen Castle

ELISABETH: If I could fly freely like a bird
Through the blue eternity of heaven
How I would praise him with joy
The God called "freedom"!

LUDOVIKA: Sisi!

ELISABETH: Mama!

LUDOVIKA: It's time for your French lesson.

ELISABETH: Yes...

Papa!
Papa!

MAX: Hi Sisi!

♪ Like Papa (1) / パパみたいに (1)

ELISABETH: Our relatives will gather here at noon
Mama has something to say
I wish I could escape from all the formalities
Sneak away from the governess
Papa, take me with you

MAX: That's impossible

ELISABETH: I like all the things you do

MAX: Hunting is not for children

ELISABETH: Writing down my dreams in poetry
Riding in equestrian competitions
I want to be just like you, Papa

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MAX: Life's too short to be bored.
And I don't like to socialize with relatives.

ELISABETH: Me too!
I'm not allowed to climb trees today

MAX: Sisi, you're too much of a tomboy

ELISABETH: Or practice walking a tightrope

MAX: Your sister is training to be a bride

ELISABETH: I can play circus with my brothers

MAX: Be careful

ELISABETH: If can sneak away from the governess

MAX: I don't know about that...

ELISABETH: Why won't you take me with you?

MAX: I'll return tomorrow afternoon

ELISABETH: You're going abroad, aren't you?

MAX: I have to go

ELISABETH: I want to live freely like a gypsy
Doing as I please

MAX: *Adieu,* Sisi. (Goodbye, Sisi.)

ELISABETH: According to my whims

MAX: Be a good girl!

ELISABETH: I want to live like you, Papa

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GOVERNESS: *Je vous en pris, princesse.* (I caught you, princess.)

ELISABETH: I hate French!

GOVERNESS: *Mais, princesse...* (But princess...)

ELISABETH: If I wasn't a princess, I'd join the circus and be a stunt person!
I could walk the tightrope or jump on a trapeze.
Shall I show you, Madame?

GOVERNESS: *S'il vous plait! Venez maintenant!* (Please! Come now!)

Scene 3: By Lake Starnberger

LUDOVIKA: Helene!

HELENE: Yes!

♪ Welcome, everyone / ようこそ、みなさま

LUDOVIKA: Welcome, everyone
Nice to see you
I have an important announcement to make

MALE RELATIVE: She's showing off again

FEMALE RELATIVE: She's being pretentious

LUDOVIKA: It's regarding our family

MALE RELATIVES: What could it be?

LUDOVIKA: Isn't my daughter Helene beautiful?
She's perfectly trained to fulfill the role of a wife

HUSBAND & WIFE: Our daughter is more beautiful

LUDOVIKA: I'm taking Helene to Bad Ischl

GIRL: Bad Ischl?

FEMALE RELATIVE: It's a spa town.

FEMALE RELATIVE: Go ahead.

LUDOVIKA: There we'll meet my sister Sophie
She has business with her niece Helene

FEMALE RELATIVE: Her sister Sophie

MALE RELATIVE: is the Empress Dowager

LUDOVIKA: Helene is going to meet her husband there
My daughter Helene is going to become the wife of His Majesty Franz Josef I, the Emperor of Austria.

RELATIVES: The wife of the Emperor of Austria?!

HELENE: Yes!

FEMALE RELATIVE: Who?

LUDOVIKA: Helene!

HELENE: Yes!

MALE RELATIVE: Where in the world is her father?

FEMALE RELATIVE: She's going to become someone important.

MALE RELATIVE: We're going to become relatives of the emperor.

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GIRL: Look!
Sisi's climbing the tree!

ELISABETH: Everybody, look at me!

FEMALE RELATIVE: What are you doing!

LUDOVIKA: Sisi! Sisi!

Scene 4: The underworld ~ Sisi's room

♪ Elisabeth ~ Rondo of love and death / エリザベート～愛と死の輪舞

DEATH: Elisabeth
Now is the time I welcome you to the world of the dead

ELISABETH: World of the dead?
Send me back!

DEATH: Your eyes set my heart ablaze
Your gaze pierces me
Even your breath captures me
And melts my frozen heart

Even though you're just a girl
You make me fall apart
Even though you're only a human being
You make me tremble

Instead of taking your life
I want to be loved by the living you
I'm now stepping
Into the taboo of forbidden love

These feelings that have sprouted in my heart
Are engraved on my body

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Only you can heal
These wounds that bleed blue

I'll return you to life
And when I do, you'll forget me
I'll chase you until I win your love

I'll chase you wherever you go
A rondo of love and death

LUDOVIKA: Sisi!
She moved!

FEMALE RELATIVE: No way...

LUDOVIKA: Sisi!

MALE RELATIVE: She's alive!

ELISABETH: Wait!

HELENE: Who are you talking to?

LUDOVIKA: There's no one there.

MALE RELATIVE: She's hallucinating.

♪ Like Papa (2) / パパみたいに (2)

ELISABETH: I know you're really there

LUDOVIKA: She's delirious

ELISABETH: And only I can see you

MALE RELATIVE: She's seeing things

ELISABETH: I don't know who you are, but I remember

HELENE: She's feverish

ELISABETH: That you saved me

LUDOVIKA: Come on, lie down.
It was God who saved you.

LUCHENI: *Un grande amore!*
The lord of the underworld has fallen in love.
Death loves a human.
But can a human love Death?
Unless she does, they cannot be united.

Scene 5: Audience chamber

LUCHENI: Speaking of rulers, here's another one.
In Vienna we have the young and handsome emperor, Franz Joseph I.
His rule is overseen by five groups.
A standing army of soldiers, a sitting army of government officials, a kneeling army of clergymen, and a crawling army of informants.
And Archduchess Sophie, who is said to be the only man at court.
Her advice is absolute!

♪ An emperor's duty / 皇帝の義務

SOPHIE: Be strong!
Be strict!
Be cold!
Be hard!

ALL: Under God's divine protection, His Majesty the Emperor
Fulfills his duties to all his subjects

GRÜNNE: The Archbishop of Vienna, Rauscher.

RAUSCHER: Please suppress and purge the extremists
Who are attacking the Church

SOPHIE: How dare they.

FRANZ: Granted.

ALL: Under God's divine protection, His Majesty the Emperor
Fulfills his duties to all his subjects

FRANZ: *(overlapping)*
Don't be hasty, ascertain the truth
For the peace and stability of the Habsburgs

LUCHENI: A mother.

MOTHER OF THE CONDEMNED: My son merely shouted “Freedom”

SOPHIE: Enough.

MOTHER OF THE CONDEMNED: Have mercy on him, Your Majesty
Don't sentence him to death

FRANZ: If I had the choice
I would like to be known as a benevolent ruler
Merciful and good

SOPHIE: *(overlapping)*
Be strong!
Be strict!
Be cold!
Be hard!

Be cold!
Be hard!

FRANZ: Denied!

MOTHER OF THE CONDEMNED: Your Majesty! Have mercy!
Your Majesty!

SOPHIE: Is there anything else, Count Grünne?

GRÜNNE: Prince Schwarzenberg has something to discuss about the situation of the Crimean War.

SCHWARZENBERG: Our nation should stand with Russia
Russia has helped us suppress the revolution
This is our chance to repay them
And at the same time, we'll gain a piece of Turkey as our reward

FRANZ: What's your assessment, Count Grünne?

GRÜNNE: England will not tolerate this
An alliance would be difficult

SCHWARZENBERG: We must make a decision!

SOPHIE: The Emperor of Austria doesn't have to decide on anything.

ALL: Under God's protection, His Majesty the Emperor
Fulfills his duties to all his subjects

Under God's divine protection, His Majesty the Emperor
Fulfills his duties to all his subjects

FRANZ: *(overlapping)*
Don't be rash, ascertain the truth
For the peace and stability of the Habsburgs

SOPHIE: *(overlapping)*
Be wise, be smooth
Be cunning

GRÜNNE: Your Majesty, the coach to Bad Ischl is waiting.

SOPHIE: Gentlemen, the audience is over.

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SCHWARZENBERG: But what should I tell the Russian ambassador…?

SOPHIE: Leave war to the other countries.
The happy Austria is marrying.

ALL: God protect the Emperor

SCHWARZENBERG: Your Majesty!

RAUSCHER: He has gone to meet a prospective wife.

Scene 6: Bad Ischl

LUCHENI: This is so heavy.
And this is so heavy.
Time for a break.

LUDOVIKA: Get going!

LUCHENI: Duke Maximilian and his family traveled from Bavaria to Bad Ischl.

LUDOVIKA: Come here, Helene.

LUCHENI: The mother is excited.

LUDOVIKA: You look beautiful!

HELENE: What should I do…

LUCHENI: The daughter is nervous.

LUDOVIKA: You'll be fine!

LUCHENI: The father is sneaking away.

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ELISABETH: Wait, Papa!

LUCHENI: The younger sister is fed up.

ELISABETH: How boring! It's so hot out here!

♪ According to plan… / 計画通り…

LUCHENI: Summer in Bad Ischl is hot
Especially this year
Ludovika and her elder sister Sophie
They meet at last

SOPHIE: You're late!

LUDOVIKA: It's the heat
We need a little rest

SOPHIE: No! The emperor will be here soon
Let me see your face

LUDOVIKA: Where on earth is my husband?
Do you know, Sisi?

ELISABETH: No.

SOPHIE: What an awful dress, what weird hair

HELENE: I'll change!

SOPHIE: That won't do
You can't keep the emperor waiting!

HELENE: Yes!

LUCHENI: Things never go according to plan
When things don't go according to plan
The result is interesting!

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SOPHIE: Your Majesty, my sister Ludovika...

FRANZ: It's been a long time.

SOPHIE: And her eldest daughter, Helene!

FRANZ: Hi!

SOPHIE: Her younger daughter, Elisabeth.

LUDOVIKA: Sisi!

FRANZ: Sisi?

SOPHIE: Your Majesty?

LUCHENI: All the mothers do is talk
The daughters are drenched in sweat
Eventually, the emperor makes his decision on his own

SOPHIE: Franz!
Tell me frankly, what do you think of her?

FRANZ: Her?

SOPHIE: Your cousin

FRANZ: She's like a freshly-picked fruit

LUDOVIKA: Fruit!?

FRANZ: Fresh!

SOPHIE: How romantic!

FRANZ: Her eyes are like almonds and her lips like strawberry

SOPHIE: She has wide hips (which makes it easier to give birth)

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LUDOVIKA: So?

FRANZ: I'll dance with her tonight

LUDOVIKA: Well then

SOPHIE: Invite her
Go invite her.

HELENE: Huh?

LUDOVIKA: Eh!?

SOPHIE: What?!

LUCHENI: Things never go according to plan
When things don't go according to plan
The result is interesting!

ALL: Things never go according to plan
When things don't go according to plan
The result

LUCHENI: The result is interesting!

Scene 7: Between heaven and earth

FRANZ: Sisi...
No, Elisabeth.
I'd like you to become the Empress of Austria.

♪ Even storms won't make me afraid / 嵐も怖くない

FRANZ: There's one thing I need to tell you first
An emperor doesn't live for himself

He lives for his country and his subjects
He walks a difficult path
Whoever becomes his wife
Will have an equally heavy burden to bear
But as long as you're with me
Even storms won't make me afraid

ELISABETH: I don't know how I should answer you

FRANZ: It's too sudden, isn't it?

ELISABETH: I understand your feelings

FRANZ: Thank you

BOTH: Let's take time to nurture this bud of love

FRANZ: I'll give you a present
It's a token of my love

ELISABETH: It's wasted on me

FRANZ: Try it on

ELISABETH: It's very heavy

BOTH: No matter what mountains
As long as I climb them with you
Even storms won't make me afraid

FRANZ: I love you

BOTH: Let's nurture our love

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Scene 8: Wedding ceremony

LUCHENI: Things never work out as planned.

DEATH: When things don't go according to plan, the result is interesting.

LUCHENI: Your Majesty...

DEATH: I'm not the one who's screwing up the plans.
It's the Habsburgs!

LUCHENI: The Augustinian Church in Vienna.
April 24, 1854.
Half past six in the evening.
For some reason, a wedding at dusk.
Why?
Because His Majesty Der Tod is the priest behind the scenes.

Scene 9: The ball

♪ The marriage is a mistake / 結婚の失敗

MAX: The marriage is a mistake
It was a foolish choice
Sisi will suffocate in the imperial court

SOPHIE: Love is blind
Franz made the wrong choice

MAX: The emperor has an Oedipus complex

SOPHIE: Sisi ruined my plan

She won't make a good wife
She doesn't fit my son
She doesn't fit

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She doesn't fit
She doesn't fit my son

MAX: *(overlapping)*
He won't make a good husband
He doesn't fit my daughter
He doesn't fit
He doesn't fit my daughter

ELISABETH: Who are you?

DEATH: Do you remember me?

ELISABETH: No...
But I feel like I've met you somewhere before...

♪ The final dance / 最後のダンス

DEATH: I'll fight the emperor for your love
You chose him to escape from me
Your love for each other is a sham
While in the arms of His Majesty
You're gently smiling at me too

ELISABETH: No!

DEATH: The final dance belongs to me
You are destined to dance with me
The Hapsburg empire is falling to ruins
The guests in the hall are holding their breaths
They're waiting impatiently for our duet

The final dance belongs to me
You are destined to dance with me
I'm watching from the darkness
The final victory will be mine

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The final dance belongs to me
You are destined to dance with me
The final dance belongs to me
You are destined to dance with me

I'm watching from the darkness
The final victory will be mine
I'm watching from the darkness
The final victory
Victory
Will be mine!

ELISABETH: The lord of the underworld...
Death!

FRANZ: Sisi?

ELISABETH: Your Majesty...

FRANZ: What's wrong?
You don't look so good.

ELISABETH: Your Majesty, please protect me!

FRANZ: Everyone's watching.
You must act like an empress.

♪ Even storms won't make me afraid (Reprise) / 嵐も怖くない (Reprise)

ELISABETH: As long as you're with me
Even storms won't make me afraid

LUCHENI: And they went on to have a night of love.
They were supposed to live happily ever after...
But things never go according to plan.
The next morning, she gets an early visit.

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Scene 10: Sisi's bedroom

SOPHIE: Where's the empress?

LICHTENSTEIN: She is still asleep.

SOPHIE: Wake her up!

LICHTENSTEIN: Yes.

♪ An empress's duty / 皇后の務め

SOPHIE: She's still too young
I have to drill it into her head
That what she needs is to obey

She's too provincial

CHAMBERMAIDS: Indeed!

SOPHIE: She has no discipline

CHAMBERMAIDS: None!

SOPHIE: She only thinks about herself and forgets her duty
An empress's duty is to stifle her own desires
And devote herself to the royal family

CHAMBERMAIDS: That's right!

♪ The first argument / 初めての諍い

ELISABETH: Good morning!
What is it?

SOPHIE: Why did you sleep in?

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ELISABETH: It's only 5 o'clock.

SOPHIE: Don't be lazy

ELISABETH: I was so tired...

SOPHIE: The day begins punctually at 5 o'clock every morning

ELISABETH: His Majesty told me that I should take a good rest

SOPHIE: You had a good sleep last night

ELISABETH: Not at all

SOPHIE: That's what I was told

ELISABETH: His Majesty wouldn't have told you that

SOPHIE: He keeps nothing from me

ELISABETH: That can't be true

SOPHIE: We share a close bond

ELISABETH: *(overlapping)*
That's impossible

SOPHIE: I'm saying this out of kindness

ELISABETH: I understand.

SOPHIE: I don't want a dispute

ELISABETH: Neither do I!

SOPHIE: You must act in line with all ceremony
And request permission for everything

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ELISABETH: I want to go horse riding.

SOPHIE: You can't

LICHTENSTEIN: It's dangerous

SOPHIE: It's not proper for an empress

LICHTENSTEIN: That's right

ELISABETH: Why not?

SOPHIE: You must adhere to our old traditions

♪ An empress's duty (Reprise) / 皇后の務め (Reprise)

ALL EXCEPT ELISABETH: An empress's duty is to stifle her own desires
And devote herself to the royal family

SOPHIE: Have you washed your face?

ELISABETH: I will do it now

SOPHIE: Show me your teeth

LICHTENSTEIN: Open your mouth

SOPHIE: They're yellow

ELISABETH: I will brush them

SOPHIE: Until they're totally white

ELISABETH: I'm not even allowed to go horse riding
You criticize everything about me

SOPHIE: It's an empress's education
You're too ill-mannered

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ELISABETH: You're jealous of me

SOPHIE: Don't be ridiculous

ELISABETH: I want...

SOPHIE: You must learn to be humble

ELISABETH: I wish to...

SOPHIE: No.

ELISABETH: Franz, help me
I'm counting on you

LICHTENSTEIN & CHAMBERMAIDS: An empress's duty is to stifle her own desires
And devote herself to the royal family

SOPHIE: *(overlapping)*
An empress's education requires motherly guidance
Everything you do must be for the royal family

ELISABETH: *(overlapping)*
Your mother is torturing me
This place is a prison

FRANZ: Mother...

♪ I'm on your side / 君の味方だ

FRANZ: I'm on your side
But Mother's advice is for your own good
Do you understand?

SOPHIE: Be strong

ELISABETH: I understand.

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SOPHIE: Be strict

ELISABETH: You're abandoning me.

FRANZ: Sisi...

ELISABETH: Get out!

Scene 11: The sky

♪ Only to me / 私だけに

ELISABETH: No, I won't be an obedient empress
I won't be a pretty little doll
I don't belong to you

I'll climb up on a thin rope
And feel the thrill of looking down on the world
I'll go on adventures all by myself

If you force duties upon me, I'll leave
If you try to catch hold of me, I'll fly away

I'll be like a bird set free
Aiming for the light as it flies into the night sky
But I won't lose sight of who I am
No, I don't want to be in the public eye
I'll decide who I want to talk to
I don't belong to anyone

The real me isn't in the palace
I'm free to live my life without being constrained by anyone
Even though I've married into the royal family
I won't let them control my life
I'll entrust my life only to me
To me

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♪ Rondo of love and death (2) / 愛と死の輪舞 (2)

DEATH: I'll return you to life
And when I do, you'll forget me
I'll chase you until I win your love

Scene 12: The couple's bond

LUCHENI: His Majesty has allowed Elisabeth to live on once again.
But her married life did not change and remained full of difficulties.
Elisabeth realized that she had her own weapon – her beauty.
She traveled to Hungary with the emperor on the condition that her children, taken away by Sophie, were returned to her.
There, she won the fervent support of the people.
However...

Scene 13: A visit to Hungary

STEPHAN: Elemer?

GYULA: Damn it!

STEPHAN: Gyula, stay strong!

GYULA: Stephan...

STEPHAN: Don't...
That's the pride of Hungary!

ELEMER: That pride has fallen into the hands of the empress.

GYULA: What should we do now?

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ELEMER: Damn her... that vixen!

STEPHAN: Elemer!

ELEMER: I'll shoot her dead!

♪ The darkness is spreading / 闇が広がる

DEATH: The long silence has come to an end
Rise up, all of you
A woman is going to run the country
You can't let that happen
Go!
To Vienna!

The darkness is spreading
The people can't see anything
Someone is crying out
And I wander, drawn to their voices

Scene 14: A café in Vienna

LUCHENI: Elisabeth's beauty came in very useful in Hungary.
The imperial couple returned to Vienna.
In Vienna's cafes, everyone is bored.

(To customer)
Go ahead.

♪ Killing time / 退屈しのぎ

MAN: Is there any news?

MAN: Nothing

MAN: His Majesty the Emperor has returned

MAN: Her Majesty the Empress is extremely popular in Hungary
She saved the country from a crisis

LUCHENI: Really?

MAN: Elisabeth's beauty regimen

MAN: Is milk baths

MAN: And honey masks

MAN: Wow!

MAN: She diets by eating eggs and oranges

MAN: She has an amazing 50cm waist!

CUSTOMERS: We're sick of all the news about the royal family
But it's perfect for killing time

LUCHENI: Everyone is bored, and the days go by.
One day, some visitors came from far away.
How may I help you?

STEPHAN: We're here to meet someone.

GYULA: Someone we've never met before.

ELEMER: He should be reading the Book of Revelation.

LUCHENI: In that case...

ELEMER: Nice to meet you

ZEPS: I'm Zeps

STEPHAN: Thank you for the letter

GYULA: We're comrades

ELEMER: We have an ally in Austria

TRIO: And that's heartening

ZEPS: Come this way
We'll be safe here
Everyone here is lazy and bored

ELEMER: We should give them the underground newspaper you're publishing to open their eyes

NEWSPAPER BOY: Extra!

QUARTET: We'll wake the sleeping citizens
And bring down the imperial government

MAN: There's big news today

MAN: The empress has given birth to a boy!

MAN: The crown prince's name is Rudolf

MEN: Her mother-in-law Sophie took him away

CUSTOMERS: Poor Crown Prince Rudolf

LUCHENI: All kinds of people gather in Vienna's cafes
You might even come across someone you've met before

ELEMER: It's you

DEATH: What a coincidence

TRIO: Please, join us

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CUSTOMERS: We're sick of all the news about the royal family
But it's perfect for killing time

QUARTET & DEATH: We'll wake the sleeping citizens
And bring down the imperial government

We'll wake the sleeping citizens
And bring down the imperial government

CUSTOMERS: *(overlapping)*
We're sick of all the news about the royal family
But it's perfect for killing time

ZEPS: All right, I'll explain the plan.
Listen up, everyone.

TRIO: Yes.

Scene 15: Sisi's bedroom

♪ Elisabeth / エリザベート

FRANZ: Elisabeth, please open the door
I miss you
I want to be with you
I had nothing but problems again today
Diplomacy with France
State bankruptcy
The ongoing war
Dealing with the revolution and the typhoid epidemic
I want to be enveloped by your gentleness
I want to sleep peacefully, if only for tonight
Please open the door
Kind-hearted Elisabeth

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♪ The third argument / 第三の口論

ELISABETH: Your mother would be happy to listen to you

FRANZ: Sisi.

ELISABETH: Forgive me.

FRANZ: Why?

ELISABETH: They're disciplining Rudolf too harshly

FRANZ: I haven't heard about that

ELISABETH: They're using corporal punishment
Whipping a little child

FRANZ: It's tradition

ELISABETH: It's outdated
I've had enough
You have to choose one of us
Your mother or me!

That is my formal ultimatum.
If you don't want to lose me, you'll have to accept my terms.
I want to take charge of my children's education.
From now on, I will decide what I do with my children and what I will allow them to do.
Please read it carefully and make your decision.
Your mother or me!
And now, please leave me alone.

♪ Elisabeth (Don't cry) / エリザベート (泣かないで)

DEATH: Elisabeth
Don't cry
Rest in my arms

You can be free now
Let's go to an eternal world that will never end
Elisabeth
Let's go
Together

ELISABETH: No, I won't run away
It's too early to give up
As long as I am alive, I can be free
Get out!
I don't need you

Scene 16: The streets of Vienna

LUCHENI: Milk!
Milk!
I've got milk!

WOMAN: This is all!?

LUCHENI: Yes.
It's the last can.

WOMAN: You don't have any more!?

LUCHENI: Not for a while.

WOMAN: I have a baby!

MAN: I have sick people at home!

LUCHENI: I'm all out!

♪ Milk / ミルク

CROWD: Milk!
It's sold out again today
Why?

LUCHENI: If there's none, there's none!

CROWD: I can't go home empty-handed
My baby is waiting for milk at home
While we're hungry and starving
There are people who live in luxury

That's right!

DEATH: Where has the milk gone?

CROWD: Where?

DEATH: There's a place with plenty of it

CROWD: Where is it!?

DEATH: Someone's taking milk baths

CROWD: Who?

DEATH: The empress

CROWD: What!?

DEATH: That's right

CROWD: If that's true

LUCHENI: It's true

CROWD: She's really shameless

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LUCHENI: It's written in the papers

CROWD: The children are starving, the sick are dying
We are suffering

LUCHENI: *(overlapping)*
Her beauty could save the country

CROWD: Instead of focusing on foreign countries, look at your own!

DEATH: Citizens, be angry!

CROWD: If you abandon us, we will seek revenge

DEATH: It's time to rise up

CROWD: Yes!

LUCHENI: The empress's beauty

CROWD: What?

LUCHENI: Could save the country!?

CROWD: No way!

LUCHENI: No one will believe that

CROWD: No one!

LUCHENI: Right?

CROWD: Yes!

DEATH: Now!
Let her know the wrath of the people!

CROWD: *(overlapping)*
The time has come! Rise up! Seize our rights!

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CROWD: *(overlapping)*
Overthrow the imperial government!

DEATH: The end of the Habsburg Empire is near

CROWD: *(overlapping)*
The time has come! Rise up! Seize our rights!

CROWD: *(overlapping)*
We'll start a revolution! A revolution!
Let's start a civil revolution!

DEATH: Rise up!

CROWD: We'll take hold of this new era with our own hands!

ELEMER: Come on, everyone, let's rise up!

CROWD: Yes!

ELEMER: Let's go.

♪ The darkness is spreading / 闇が広がる

DEATH: The darkness is spreading
The people can't see anything
Someone is crying out
And I wander, drawn to their voices

Scene 17: Dressing Room ~ Hall of Mirrors

LICHTENSTEIN: Quickly!
Don't spill the milk.
Come on, hurry!
The empress is waiting.

♪ An empress's duty / 皇后の務め

LICHTENSTEIN: It's time for her bath
Hurry and bring that in
The milk must be poured over her back before it becomes cold

Is the mask prepared?

MAID: Here it is

LICHTENSTEIN: Is the shampoo ready?

MAID: Over here
I have three egg whites and a glass of cognac

LICHTENSTEIN: Perfect

An empress's duty is to refine her beauty
In order to aid in foreign diplomacy

MAIDS: *(overlapping)*
Milk baths, honey masks
Even her shampoo is specially made

LICHTENSTEIN: Her Majesty eats nothing but three eggs and two oranges every day.
She spends at least three hours a day doing gymnastics to maintain her figure.

An empress's duty is to refine her beauty
In order to display her country's prestige to the world

MAIDS: *(overlapping)*
Dieting, gymnastics
In order to display the prestige of her country

FRANZ: *(Clears throat)*

LICHTENSTEIN: Your Majesty!

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MAIDS: His Majesty the Emperor is here

LICHTENSTEIN: *(overlapping)*
That's unusual
Why is he here so late?

FRANZ: Where's the empress?
I wish to speak to her.

LICHTENSTEIN: She is inside setting her hair.
She can hear you, so please go ahead and speak.

♪ Only to me (Reprise) / 私だけに (Reprise)

FRANZ: I've read your letter many times over
I need your love
I can't bear to live without you

I'll leave our son's education to you
And abide by all your other wishes
Whatever you want, I'll give it to you

It's an emperor's duty to control his emotions
But I'd rather break my convictions than to lose you!

ELISABETH: I am happy to hear these words from you
I will go with you, Your Majesty
But my life belongs to me

DEATH: Because I allowed you to live
You found meaning in life

ELISABETH: *(overlapping)*
I'll entrust my life only to me

DEATH: You're all I see
I love you
Elisabeth

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– Act 2 –

Scene 1A: Kitsch

[Adlib portion; differs for each performance. Lucheni picks out someone from the audience and pretends to take a photo of him/her.]

LUCHENI: This photo will be sent to Empress Elisabeth.
She knew that when her beauty fades her power will vanish with it.
She would compare the photos of the most beautiful people in the world to her reflection in the mirror to see which was prettier.
Hey!

♪ Kitsch / キッチュ

LUCHENI: In Vienna, Sophie remained in control
But in Hungary, Elisabeth's popularity was at its peak
The emperor, under the pressure of the independence movement
Allowed Hungary to establish itself as a new country
Great!
But he made himself the king
And Elisabeth will be the queen

Oh!
Kitsch!
Even if the country is different
Kitsch!
The king is the same
Kitsch!
Elisabeth
Kitsch!
Will be Queen of Hungary

Kitsch!

Scene 1B: Coronation

LUCHENI: At the cathedral in Budapest, the coronation ceremony is about to begin.
The people are very excited.
Not about the new king who had granted them the right to self-government, but about the mover behind the scenes, the queen.
But there are some who aren't happy.

GYULA: We've finally done it!

STEPHAN: Hungary has won the right to self-govern.

ELEMER: Do you seriously think so?
Even though they call it the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Austria is the one who holds the power.

ZEPS: That's right.
Unless we overthrow the emperor, we'll never have true independence.

STEPHAN: But you cannot deny that we've made some progress.

ELEMER: Yes.
But Hungary continues to be fooled by the beauty of the empress.

Scene 2: Labyrinth

LUCHENI: There's also another person who isn’t happy.

YOUNG RUDOLF: Mama!
Mama?

LUCHENI: His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Rudolf.

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YOUNG RUDOLF: Mama...
Mama...

♪ Mama, where are you? / ママ、どこにいるの？

YOUNG RUDOLF: Mama, where are you?
Can you hear me?
I'm cold, please hold me
Everyone says I shouldn't bother you
Why can't I be with you?

Mama, it's pitch black in my room
I get scared when I wake up
Nobody comes when I cry
I'm all alone

DEATH: Your mama can't hear you

YOUNG RUDOLF: Who are you?

DEATH: I'm a friend
I'll come to you if you call me

YOUNG RUDOLF: Really?

DEATH: Without fail

YOUNG RUDOLF: I'm going to become a powerful hero
I killed another cat yesterday
It was a test of courage
But I feel a little sorry for it

Oh, Mama, why do you have to travel?
Take me with you
Even if it's just in the castle
Please don't leave me alone

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Scene 3: Sophie's salon

♪ The empress's victory / 皇后の勝利

SOPHIE: I can't stand it anymore
The monarchy is in crisis
My son does everything the empress says
It's her victory

GRÜNNE: The situation is grave

RAUSCHER: We must do something

SCHWARZENBERG: Immediately

ALL: Or we'll be usurped by the empress

RAUSCHER: She hates the church and never turns up for mass

HÜBENER: And is overly critical of the education system

KEMPEN: She's been working with the Hungarian Progressives

RAUSCHER: And appointed a minister without our consent

SOPHIE: That vixen!

The emperor doesn't realize that the monarchy is in crisis

CABINET: *(overlapping)*
Victory
It's her victory
We must do something immediately

ALL: Or we'll be usurped by the empress

GRÜNNE: Well, I can understand why.

SOPHIE: Why?

GRÜNNE: His Majesty is a man.

SCHWARZENBERG: She's beautiful

SOPHIE: Beautiful?
There are plenty of beautiful women out there.

SCHWARZENBERG: Oh, I understand!

GRÜNNE: An interesting

RAUSCHER: Idea!

SOPHIE: An eye for an eye, a sword for a sword

HÜBENER: A woman

ALL: For a woman

SOPHIE: A woman more beautiful than the empress!
But how on earth are we going to find one?

GRÜNNE: It's simple!
Vienna is a gentleman's watering hole.
There are many salons full of young ladies.

SOPHIE: You mean brothels!
His Majesty cannot be allowed to set foot in such places!

SCHWARZENBERG: I can take him to a secret club...

SOPHIE: Absolutely not!

CABINET: Then...

RAUSCHER: I have a better plan.

KEMPEN: Huh?

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RAUSCHER: A delivery.

KEMPEN: What?

RAUSCHER: Like getting pizza from a restaurant...

CABINET: I see!

SOPHIE: So you've done this before, Archbishop?

RAUSCHER: Uh... about that...
No.
A few times...

SOPHIE: All right, I approve of the delivery.
But keep it away from the eyes of the public!
I don't want a scandal!

RAUSCHER: Leave it to me.

SOPHIE: It's our–

ALL: Victory!
We will defeat that woman!
We will win!

Scene 4: Dining Hall

GRÜNNE: Your Majesty!

FRANZ: Hello!

GRÜNNE: Today's luncheon is a very special one.

FRANZ: Oh, what are we having?

GRÜNNE: It's a delivery.

FRANZ: What did you get?

RAUSCHER: Chicken and fish.
Madame Wolf's Collection!

♪ Madame Wolf's collection / マダム・ヴォルフのコレクション

MADAME WOLF: There's no need to be shy or pretentious
Enjoy your meal
They're fresh and juicy
Perfect for eating now
You can season and eat them any way you like
It's all up to you

LUCHENI: The most beautiful women in Vienna

MADAME WOLF: Madame Wolf's Collection
Marie is crazy
Romy is spunky
Tatiana is dynamite
For the seniors, we have Mitzy
And our special is Madeleine

LUCHENI: A mysterious beauty you might have seen somewhere else

MADAME WOLF: There's no need to be shy or pretentious
Just enjoy your meal
No matter how distinguished you are
You don't have to bother with decorum
You can eat as you please
Until your appetite is satisfied

BOTH: He ate

MADAME WOLF: Without reservation or shame

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BOTH: A man is a man

MADAME WOLF: No matter how distinguished he is

BOTH: Once his appetite has been satisfied

MADAME WOLF: I'll take his money

BOTH: And be on my way

LUCHENI: Who shall I send the photo to?

Scene 5: Exercise Room

LIECHTENSTEIN: Oh, what a shameful display!
Sztaray, has the empress eaten anything?

SZTARAY: No, nothing...
All she does is exercise.

♪ The empress's fast/ 皇后の絶食

LIECHTENSTEIN: Your Majesty, can you hear me?

ELISABETH: Yes.

LIECHTENSTEIN: May I come in?

ELISABETH: No.

LIECHTENSTEIN: I've been told you look emaciated
Please eat something

MAIDS: *(overlapping)*
She hasn't eaten for three days

LIECHTENSTEIN: There is soup

MAIDS: *(overlapping)*
She won't even eat salad

LIECHTENSTEIN: If you keep exercising, you'll damage your health

MAIDS: *(overlapping)*
She's damaging her health for the sake of maintaining her figure

LIECHTENSTEIN: I'm coming in.

ELISABETH: Liechtenstein.

LIECHTENSTEIN: Your Majesty...
Please stop.
(Elisabeth collapses)
Get the doctor!
Doctor Seeburger is with Archduchess Sophie.

MAID: Yes!

LIECHTENSTEIN: Get a chair!
Hurry!

(To Elisabeth)
You've gotten so frail...
Hurry and lie down.
That's why we kept asking you to eat.

MAID: Doctor Seeburger has arrived.

LIECHTENSTEIN: Doctor...

DEATH: What happened?

LIECHTENSTEIN: She must be anemic.
She doesn't eat anything and just keeps exercising.

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She won't listen to a single word that Archduchess Sophie or I say!

ELISABETH: Please leave...

LIECHTENSTEIN: Your Majesty!

DEATH: Please leave us alone.

♪ Maladie ~ The fourth argument / マラディ～第四の口論

DEATH: Your pulse

ELISABETH: I'm fine

DEATH: You have a fever

ELISABETH: My temperature is normal

DEATH: You look pale
Why do you diet to the point of collapsing?

You preserve your beauty to attract the emperor
To defeat Sophie and ensure your survival
It's a meaningless battle

ELISABETH: His Majesty loves me

DEATH: Do you trust him?

ELISABETH: Of course I do

DEATH: You're too naive
They say great men have great fondness for sensual pleasures
His Majesty is no exception

ELISABETH: Does he have someone else?

DEATH: How are you going to live if he's unfaithful to you?

ELISABETH: That's impossible.
(Death hands Elisabeth a photo)
This is...

DEATH: It was taken in the palace.

ELISABETH: His Majesty's... bedchamber.

DEATH: This is his love.

ELISABETH: What should I do?
I can't live with this!

DEATH: Then you should die!

ELISABETH: It's you!

♪ The final chance / 最後のチャンス

DEATH: Let's depart now for the realm of the dead
With me, the one who loves you

ELISABETH: Wait
I'm going to close my heart to him from now on
If he has sinned against me, I can be free

DEATH: Don't deceive yourself
You never loved him
The one you love is me!

ELISABETH: No!
If you're really Death, you can take my life.
But...
I cannot love you!
Leave.

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(Death shows Elisabeth her dagger)
That's...

DEATH: The time will come when you wish to die.

Scene 6: Labyrinth

LUCHENI: The broken-hearted empress embarked on an aimless journey.
In Vienna, everyone is anxiously waiting for her.
As she continued on her journey, something terrible was beginning to happen in the family.

RUDOLF: Father, why can't you understand?
If this continues, the Habsburgs will fall.
We need to abolish the old imperial regime and create a new Danube Federation.
This is the only way to pacify the various ethic groups!

FRANZ: Rudolf!
Since when did you become a pawn of the radical faction?
I never thought I'd hear such words from the crown prince...
As long as I'm alive, I won't let 600 years of Habsburg history come to an end.

RUDOLF: Father!

FRANZ: If you won't change your mind, I will have to reconsider your position as the heir to the throne.

♪ The darkness is spreading / 闇が広がる

DEATH: The long silence has come to an end
You will remember the promise we made when you were a child
If you seek me, I'll appear

RUDOLF: I haven't forgotten you, my friend
I feel like I'm about to break down with fear

DEATH: I'll be here by your side

BOTH: The darkness is spreading
The people can't see anything
Someone is crying out
And I wander, drawn to their voices
The darkness is spreading
The end of the world is near

RUDOLF: The world is sinking and I have to take the helm
But I can't do anything
My hands are tied

DEATH: Misery is brewing
Are you going to stand by and watch,
The future emperor?

RUDOLF: I can't stand it anymore!

BOTH: The darkness is spreading
The people know nothing of it
Someone is crying out
Dancing to the song of revolution
The darkness is spreading
The end of the world is near

DEATH: Are you going to let this pass?
Rise up
Take the throne

RUDOLF: The throne!

BOTH: The darkness is spreading
Now is the time to rise up
This sinking world can only be saved by you

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The darkness is spreading
Emperor Rudolf will rise up

Scene 7: Revolution

LUCHENI: You recognize this cafe, don't you?
Their revolt has now entered the final phase.

GYULA: Hey, bring out the Tokay wine.
The one from Hungary.

LUCHENI: Yes, yes...

GYULA: Independence for Hungary!

ELEMER: Your Highness!

RUDOLF: I failed.
My father couldn't be persuaded.

♪ Hungarian revolution / ハンガリー独立運動

ELEMER, GYULA, STEPHAN, ZEPS: The crown prince has fallen out with the emperor
We must work together to defend our country against the Germans

RUDOLF: *(overlapping)*
In order to prevent the collapse of the Habsburg Empire
I must lend my strength to the independence movement

ELEMER: Your Highness
The Germans are trying

GYULA, STEPHAN, ZEPS: That's right!

ELEMER: To break up the empire

GYULA, STEPHAN, ZEPS: Break up

ELEMER: Before that happens, a new

GYULA, STEPHAN, ZEPS: Federation

ELEMER: Federation

Let's establish a new Danube Federation

GYULA, STEPHAN, ZEPS: *(overlapping)*
Danube Federation

DEATH: It's time to overthrow the imperial government
The Habsburg Empire can still be saved if you act now

ALL: That's right!

RUDOLF: But I'd be a traitor

ALL: No

ELEMER: You'll become our savior

RUDOLF: No

ELEMER: The Crown of Hungary

GYULA, STEPHAN, ZEPS: The Crown

ELEMER: Awaits you!

RUDOLF: King of Hungary!

HUNGARIANS: Save us!
Éljen, éljen, Rudolf!
Lead us!
Éljen, éljen, Rudolf!

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HUNGARIAN MEN: Rudolf, Rudolf
Rudolf, Rudolf

HUNGARIAN WOMEN: *(overlapping)*
Rudolf, Rudolf

HUNGARIAN MEN: Rudolf, Rudolf
Rudolf, Rudolf

HUNGARIAN WOMEN: *(overlapping)*
Rudolf, Rudolf

HUNGARIAN MEN: Rudolf, Rudolf
Rudolf, Rudolf

HUNGARIAN WOMEN: *(overlapping)*
Rudolf, Rudolf

ELEMER, GYULA, STEPHAN, ZEPS, DEATH: Now is the time to rise up together!
If you miss this chance, it'll never come by again!

(gunshots)

SOMEONE: Your Highness!

RUDOLF: Elemer!
It's dangerous!
Go! Quickly!
Elemer!

SOLDIER: Your Highness!

FRANZ: So this was the doing of the heir to the House of Habsburg?

RUDOLF: Father, I...

FRANZ: Not another word!
I don't want to hear it.
The incident has been handled confidentially.

However...
You won't be able to succeed to the throne anymore.

Scene 8: Antechamber

LUCHENI: Just as Rudolf was feeling depressed, the person he had been waiting for finally returned.

♪ I'm your mirror, Mama / 僕はママの鏡だから

RUDOLF: I've been waiting for you to come home, Mama
I want to talk to you alone
We're so similar
There's no place in this world where we feel at ease
I'm your mirror, Mama
So you must understand my feelings

ELISABETH: I don't know
It's been so long

RUDOLF: I'll be honest with you.
I've fallen into the worst possible situation
I'm all alone
No one can help me
Mama, you're the only one who can persuade Papa
You saved Hungary in the past

ELISABETH: *(overlapping)*
So this is about politics

RUDOLF: Established the Danube Federation

ELISABETH: *(overlapping)*
It was a long time ago

RUDOLF: There's no other way to save the Habsburgs from ruin right now

ELISABETH: I'm sorry, Rudolf.
I won't plead with His Majesty
You're already an adult
You can resolve this on your own
Good night.

RUDOLF: I have nothing left to live for…

DEATH: Do you wish to die?

Scene 9: Hall of Mirrors

♪ Dance of death / 死の舞

Rudolf's death. This scene has no dialogue.

Scene 10: Funeral

♪ Lamentation of death / 死の嘆き

ELISABETH: Rudolf, where are you?
Can you hear me?
Are you cold?
Are you shivering?
Mama abandoned you to protect herself
This sin cannot be erased

FRANZ: Sisi!
Everyone, please leave.

ELISABETH: We are mirrors of each other
We can't rest in this world
Now you have found peace in death

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(To Death)
It was you
You took my son
Don't make me wait any longer
Don't torture me
I'll give you my life
Let me die

DEATH: You still don't love me!
Death is not an escape!

♪ Rondo of love and death (Reprise) / 愛と死の輪舞 (Rep.)

DEATH: Even though you're only a human being
You make me tremble
Instead of taking your life
I want to be loved by the living you
I can no longer pull myself away
From the taboo of forbidden love

These feelings that fill my heart
Are engraved on my body
Only you can heal
These wounds that bleed blue
I can't take your life
Unless you seek my love
I've been chasing you
Trying to win your love

I'll never stop chasing you
A rondo of love and death

Scene 11A: A street corner in Vienna

LUCHENI: What do you think, everyone?
New souvenirs of Vienna!

♪ New souvenirs of Vienna (Kitsch・Reprise)
/ 新しいウィーン土産 (キッチュ・Reprise)

LUCHENI: Mugs with the faces of the emperor and empress
No one knows the sorrow hidden behind their smiles
A hundred years from now, this stuff will be worth a fortune
It's a bargain!

Kitsch!
In a hundred years
Kitsch!
They'll be collector's items

The royal couple continued drifting apart
For a long time...
A hundred years from now, that wouldn't be so unusual
But at the time, they were a kitschy couple
What did the husband want from his wife?
And what did the wife want from her husband?

Elisabeth's love...
Where is it?
The husband visited his wife while she was traveling

Scene 11B: By Lake Geneva

FRANZ: You know why I'm here, don't you?

ELISABETH: I think I do.

FRANZ: Come home, Sisi.
We belong together.
No matter how many years we've lived apart.
Love can overcome all our differences.

♪ Boats in the night / 夜のボート

FRANZ: I just want to find a little happiness

ELISABETH: Your Majesty

FRANZ: My goal in life is to be close to you

ELISABETH: We have two different goals

FRANZ: If you could just look through my eyes for once
It would clear up any misunderstandings you have

BOTH: We're like two boats
Passing on a lake at night
We would come close
Only to pass each other
Heading for our respective destinations

ELISABETH: Even if we try to meet
We miss each other in the night fog

FRANZ: *(overlapping)*
Understand me
I need you
Believe me
I love you

ELISABETH: Passing each other as we search for our ports
Like two boats

FRANZ: What's your port?

ELISABETH: I don't know.
But someone's been waiting there for me.

FRANZ: Where is it?

ELISABETH: Somewhere I'll reach one day.

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Scene 12: Mausoleum

LUCHENI: Kitsch!
The eternally estranged couple.

JUDGE (VOICE): It's time, Lucheni.
Court will soon adjourn.

LUCHENI: Wait.
I'm not done yet!

JUDGE (VOICE): Are you saying that you assassinated the empress because the emperor loved her?

LUCHENI: You could say that.

JUDGE (VOICE): Don't dodge the question!

LUCHENI: I still have one last testimony left!
Now!

Scene 13: Epilogue

MAN: Hey, the ship's leaving.

LUCHENI: September 10th, 1898.
On the banks of Lake Geneva.
It was a beautiful, sunny day.
I read in the paper that Empress Elisabeth was in the city.

ELISABETH: We must hurry, Sztaray.

SZTARAY: Yes, Your Majesty.

ELISABETH: The ship is about to leave.

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SZTARAY: Yes.

(Lucheni stabs Elisabeth)

DEATH: Elisabeth.

SZTARAY: No!

POLICE OFFICER: What's going on?

SZTARAY: The empress has been stabbed!
She's the Empress of Austria!

LUCHENI: *Un grande amore!* (A great love!)

♪ Theme of love / 愛のテーマ

DEATH: Now is the time I welcome you to the world of the dead

ELISABETH: Take me beyond the darkness, far away
To a place where my soul is free and at peace

DEATH: Let's swim together
Across the deep lake called love

ELISABETH: I cried, I laughed, I grieved, and suffered
At the end of a long journey

BOTH: I found a love that will never end

ELISABETH: Your love

DEATH: *(overlapping)*
Your love

- END -

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